

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258603

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 1506 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA  
NAIROBI JIDDA KHARTOUM LONDON PARIS SANA 29 OCT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, FT, FR, SO

SUBJECT: TFAI AND SOMALIA - STRAWS IN THE WIND

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 12681 DBL ADDIS ABABA 12641

1. ALI AREF VISIT TO ETHIOPIA (REF A AND B) HAS PROVOKED RESPONSE  
FROM SOMALI MEDIA ATTACKING AREF'S CLAIMS TO SPEAK FOR PEOPLES OF  
TFAI. IN DAILY ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 28, SOMALI  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION QUOTED TFAI POLITICIAN HASSAN GULAIID,  
PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN PEOPLES INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE OF FRENCH  
SOMALILAND (APIL), DENYING THAT ALI AREF SPOKE FOR COLONY'S  
POPULATION.

GULAIID SAID THAT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT PREPARED TO HOLD TALKS WITH AREF  
REGARDING TFAI FUTURE BECAUSE GOF WAS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. GULAIID'S ASSOCIATE, AHMED DENI,  
DESCRIBED AREF'S VISIT AS TOURIST OUTING AND CITED ABSENCE OF AREF'S  
PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES AS EVIDENCE THAT HIS TFAI POLITICAL  
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COLLABORATORS HAD NOT RPT NOT APPROVED HIS ADDIS TRIP. COMMENTS OF

TWO MEN WERE EVIDENTLY DRAWN FROM BBC INTERVIEW WHILE BOTH WERE IN FRANCE DRUMMING UP SUPPORT FOR APIL'S DEMANDS FOR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

2. SOMALI ATTACK CONTINUED OCTOBER 29 IN DAILY SONNA PRESS BULLETIN. IBRAHIM HARBI FARAH, SPOKESMAN FOR VISITING APIL DELEGATION WHICH ATTENDED SOMALI OCT. 21ST CELEBRATIONS, TOLD SOMALI PRESS THAT HE WAS AMAZED AT WARM RECEPTION GIVEN IN ETHIOPIA TO AREF, THE NOTORIOUS IMPERIALIST PUPPET. ANOTHER APIL SPOKESMAN, ASSISTANT SECGEN AHMED BULALE, PRAISED SOMALIA FOR ITS SUPPORT FOR APIL, EXPLAINED THAT LATTER HAD ACHIEVED TREMENDOUS SUCCESS IN FIELDS OF DIPLOMACY AND MASS MOBILIZATION, ETC.

3. THIS IS OF COURSE STANDARD FARE FOR SOMALI MEDIA WHICH NO ONE SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY AND APIL CLAIMS ARE NO MORE LEGITIMATE THAN THOSE OF AREF. PROBLEM FRENCH FACE -- AND KNOW THEY FACE (PARIS 26908) -- IS THWIK THERE IS AT PRESENT NO SATISFACTORY OR AT LEAST VOCAL LEADERSHIP WHICH CAN SATISFACTORILY UNITE TFAI POPULATION.

4. REGARDLESS OF SOMALI PRESS ATTACKS ON AREF, WHETHER EMANATING FROM ADDIS OR MOGADISCIO, IT IS MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT SIAD KNOWS WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO ABOUT TFAI. IT IS ALSO PREMATURE TO ASSUME THAT SIAD HAS SUPPORT OF HIS ARAB LEAGUE COLLEAGUES REGARDING TFAI--WHATEVER HIS ULTIMATE INTENTIONS MAY PROVE TO BE. SIAD IS STILL FAR TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH SOVIET UNION FOR ARAB POWERS ALONG RED SEA BASIN (PARA 3, PARIS 25854) TO SUPPORT SOMALI AMBITIONS IN TFAI. IF SIAD CAN CURRENTLY ATTRACT ONLY A MINIMUM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FROM ARAB SOURCES, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT IS REALISTIC TO EXPECT SAME CAPITALS TO GIVE HIM POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR AN EXTENSION OF SOMALI TERRITORY NORTH INTO THE RED SEA ATHWART THE BAB-EL-ANDAB. WHILE ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS MAY ENDORSE TFAI DECOLONIZATION, TIMING AND MODALITIES OF THAT TRANSFER ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AS MUCH A CONCERN TO THEM AS TO PARIS. IN THE MEANTIME, SOMALI INFLUENCE IN THE ARAB LEAGUE IS NIL, ITS OAU STATURE IS LITTLE BETTER.

5. CHAUVET'S REMARKS ABOUT SIAD'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT QUID PRO QUO IN RETURN FOR INDEPENDENT TFAI (PARIS 26908) MAY REFER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GREATER EEC ROLE IN SOMALI RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. WHILE SIAD WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PUBLICLY RENOUNCE CLAIMS TO LOST SOMALI LANDS, IT IS WORTH NOTHING THAT IN OCT. 21 SPEECH, SIAD MADE POINTED REFERENCE TO HIS HOPES FOR GREATER EEC AID IN SPEEDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: QTE COMRADES, ALTHOUGH OUR REVOLUTION IS GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM, YET THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES IS NOT RULED OUT. ON THE CONTRARY, THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IS WORKING IN GOOD EARNEST

TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES BASED ON RESPECT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. WE ALREADY MAINTAIN DIRECT RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MEMBER STATES IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) BENEFICIAL TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT WESTERN EUROPE, OWING TO ITS HIGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, AND THE ARAB WORLD OWING TO THEIR VAST NATURAL RICHES IN RAW MATERIALS WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE WEST, WOULD HAVE BOTH BENEFITED A GREAT DEAL HAD THERE BEEN AN EQUITABLE TRADE BASED ON JUSTICE AND MUTUAL RESPECT. WE BELIEVE THAT IRRATIONAL CONFRONTATION ARE TO NO ONES' AVAIL. ON THE CONTRARY BOTH PARTIES HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM EACH OTHER IF UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT AND DUE CONSIDERATIONS ARE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN THEIR MUTUAL DEALINGS. UNQTE.

6. FINALLY, A WORD ABOUT TFAI POPULATIONS THEMSELVES. WHILE THEIR NUMBERS MAY NOT BE KNOWN AND THEIR VOICES NOT HEARD, MORE SOMALIS THAN EVER ARE DEPARTING MOGADISCIO AND SIAD'S SOCIALISM FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED ON ARABIAN PENINSULA AND IN GULF. MANY TRAVEL TO TFAI. WHEN TIME COMES FOR SOMALIS IN TFAI TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE, WE SUSPECT THAT ECONOMIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE CRUCIAL. THOSE SOMALIS NOW IN TFAI WHO HAVE VOTED WITH THEIR FEET IN PAST ARE UNLIKELY TO OPT FOR ANY TIES WITH PRESENT SOMALI REGIME. ALI AREF MAY NOT BE THEIR SPOKESMAN BUT NETHER ARE THE APIL MOUTHPIECES.  
LOUGHRAN  
UNQTE. KISSINGER

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